

CLAIMS

Sub A

We claim:

1. On a computer in communication with an imaging source device, a method for transferring the image from the imaging source device to a destination, the method comprising: receiving the image from the imaging source device; and transferring the image to the destination through the computer in such a way as to give a user the impression that transfer occurred directly from the imaging source device to the destination.

10 2. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer has a hard drive, the method further comprising storing the image on the computer's hard drive in preparation for transfer to the destination.

20 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a selection of the destination from the user, wherein the destination to which the image is transferred in the transfer step is the selected destination.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a printer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a CD-write device.

25 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is a web site.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the destination is an email recipient.

30 9. A computer-implemented method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination, wherein the imaging source device is in

communication with a computer having a computer-readable medium, and wherein the destination is external to the computer, the method comprising: prompting a user to select the external destination to which the image is to be transferred; storing the image on the computer-readable medium; and transferring the image from the computer-readable medium to the external destination to give the user the impression the transfer is directly from the imaging source device.

5 10. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 9.

10 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the computer-readable medium is a hard disk of the computer.

15 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the computer-readable medium is a writeable CD memory of the computer.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the external destination is a web site.

20 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the external destination is a printer.

15 20 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the external destination is a CD-write device.

25 16. The method of claim 9, wherein the external destination is an email recipient.

17. On a computer having a computer-readable medium, a method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to an on-line web community, the imaging source device being linked for communication with the computer, the 30 method comprising: receiving a user selection representing a desire to transfer the

image to the web community; storing the image on the computer-readable medium; and transferring the image from the computer-readable medium to the web community in such a way as to give the user the impression the transfer is directly from the imaging source device.

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18. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 17.

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19. The method of claim 17, wherein the imaging source device is a digital camera.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the imaging source device is a scanner.

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21. The method of claim 17, further comprising: loading a plug-in module adapted to transferring the image to selected web community.

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22. The method of claim 20, further comprising: presenting the user with a plurality of destinations, the plurality including the on-line web community, wherein the loaded plug-in module is one of a plurality of plug-in modules, wherein each plug-in module is adapted to transfer the image from the imaging source device to a particular destination and is loadable by the image helper program in response to the user selecting the particular destination.

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23. A system for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination via a computer, the system comprising: a computer having a computer-readable medium; an imaging source device for providing a video image to the computer; and an image helper program module executing on the computer, wherein the image helper program module is operable to transfer the image from the imaging source device to the destination via the computer-readable medium in such as way as

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to appear to a user of the computer that the image is being transferred directly from the imaging source device to the destination.

24. The system of claim 23, further comprising: a plug-in module adapted 5 to transfer the image from the imaging source device to the destination, wherein the image helper program module loads the plug-in module in response to a user selection of the destination.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the image helper program module 10 includes a standard application programming interface through which the plug-in module communicates.

26. The system of claim 22, further comprising: a plurality of plug-in 15 modules, wherein each plug-in module is adapted to transfer the image from the imaging source device to a particular destination, and wherein, in response to a user's selection of a destination, the image helper program module loads the plug-in module for the selected destination.

27. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon: an image helper 20 program for receiving a user selection on a computer of a destination to which an image originating from an imaging source device is to be sent, wherein the image helper program includes a programming interface; and at least one plug-in associated with the destination, wherein the plug-in is invoked by the image helper upon receiving the user selection of the destination and communicates with the image 25 helper program via the programming interface to transfer the image from the imaging source device to the destination via a computer-readable medium of the computer in such a way as to appear to a user that the image is being transferred directly from the imaging source device to the destination.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, further comprising: a still-image processing layer, wherein still-image processing layer represents the imaging source device to the image helper program to facilitate the transfer of the image from the imaging source device to the destination.

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29. A computer implemented method for transferring an image from an imaging source device to a destination, the method comprising: receiving the image from the imaging source device; loading a plug-in module corresponding to the destination; and using the plug-in module to transfer the image to the destination.

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30. The method of claim 29, further comprising storing the image on the computer's hard drive in preparation for transfer to the destination.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the destination is a printer.

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32. The method of claim 29, wherein the destination is a CD-write device.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the destination is a web site.

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34. The method of claim 29, wherein the destination is an email recipient.